

# A FLOURISHING Creation:

## Queensland Synod Action and Advocacy Plan to 2030 Plan Summary

**“God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31).**

All of Creation is loved by God and has intrinsic value. To be in relationship with God is to be in a reciprocal relationship with lands, seas, and each other. We are called to live in sustainable ways, caring for and living in community with the natural environment for present and future generations.

A commitment to environmental sustainability has been central to the Uniting Church since it began, with the Statement to the Nation in June 1977 urging the “wise use of energy, the protection of the environment and the replenishment of the earth’s resources”. Through this Plan we renew our commitment to care for all Creation, and to walk together with First Nations Peoples in order that we listen, learn, build friendship, and give of love for all that God has made.

The full [Flourishing Creation Action and Advocacy Plan](#) was endorsed at the 36th Queensland Synod in Session in 2022. Consider which commitments and pathways are right for you. **Your actions can make a difference.**

### EMPOWERED PEOPLE AND CONNECTION

**Commitment: Encourage and support people in congregations, presbyteries, schools, and agencies to connect with Creation, take action and leverage the health and social benefits.**

#### Pathways

- Promote resources that help people live differently
- Create community food gardens
- Encourage group meditation and prayer in nature
- Establish a voluntary pledge program to encourage people to commit to local actions

- Share stories of initiatives implemented by our community
- Build relationships and learn from other communities, particularly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Encourage people to participate in other local groups’ environmental initiatives (e.g. bushcare, repair cafes)
- Establish a forum for young people’s action and advocacy including Covenanting with First Nation Peoples
- Encourage employees of entities to dedicate a day each year to contribute to this Action Plan
- Support worshipping communities with liturgical resources related to caring for Creation.



## MOBILITY

**Commitment:** Support climate-friendly and healthy mobility options.

### Pathways

- Post timetables for public transport and schedule worship services around these times
- Provide bicycle access and parking
- Set up a carpooling or car-sharing system
- Install charging points for electric vehicles
- Establish incentives for leaders to take up electric vehicles
- Incorporate remote meeting practices into everyday activities
- Advocate for active transport facilities in local communities.

## ENERGY

**Commitment:** Use energy efficiently and source from clean energy providers, focusing on a target of 70% greenhouse emissions reduction by 2030, with a further aim of net zero by 2040, in line with National Assembly targets.

### Pathways

- Support and resource congregations and households with ways to monitor and reduce energy consumption
- Purchase appliances with a minimum 5-star energy efficiency rating
- Install solar panels and battery storage
- Purchase electricity from renewable energy projects
- Switch gas-using activities to electricity (e.g. hot water, cooking).

## WATER

**Commitment:** Be good stewards of water through acts of conservation and protection.

### Pathways

- Purchase appliances with a minimum 5-star water efficiency rating
- Install low-flow taps, shower heads and toilets
- Use native drought-tolerant plant species in landscaping
- Install rainwater or stormwater collection systems
- Host or participate in clean-up events to prevent litter entering waterways
- Establish process for measuring and monitoring water usage
- Set targets for water use reduction.

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

**Commitment:** Support the transition to a circular economy to reduce our demand on Earth's resources.

### Pathways

- Organise exchange circles to bring people together, save money and reduce consumption and waste
- Start a community tool library
- Establish community recycling points at our facilities for recovering specialist recyclable items (e.g. batteries, oral care packaging)
- Adopt a "digital first" approach for meeting materials, forms, etc.
- Use reusable foodware and phase out single-use items
- Establish onsite food composting or worm farms in conjunction with community food gardens
- Install community native beehives
- Donate pre-loved items to op shops or host a jumble sale
- Set up a local system for sharing excess produce and food.

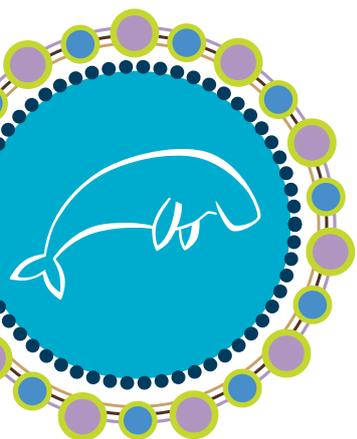


## ADVOCACY

**Commitment:** Develop an Advocacy Plan to leverage our collective wisdom to contribute and influence the direction of economic and ecological issues in our communities and beyond.

### Pathways

- For rural farming and mining communities, advocate for equitable and sustainable economic transitions.
- Advocate for stronger government action on climate change
- Speak out about the impacts of climate change on vulnerable groups
- Amplify the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in their calls to heal Country
- Amplify the advocacy efforts of young people in our communities
- Align external communication of Synod's environmental sustainability efforts with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals
- Join inter-organisational groups like the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change
- Encourage ministers and leaders to preach and teach in relation to climate change
- Embed eco-theology in theological teachings.



**Called to care for Creation?**

Join our *Environmental Sustainability Action Network*  
[sustainability@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:sustainability@ucaqld.com.au)



Click or scan for the full plan!